



State of  
California



Department of Toxic  
Substances Control

# Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, April 2005

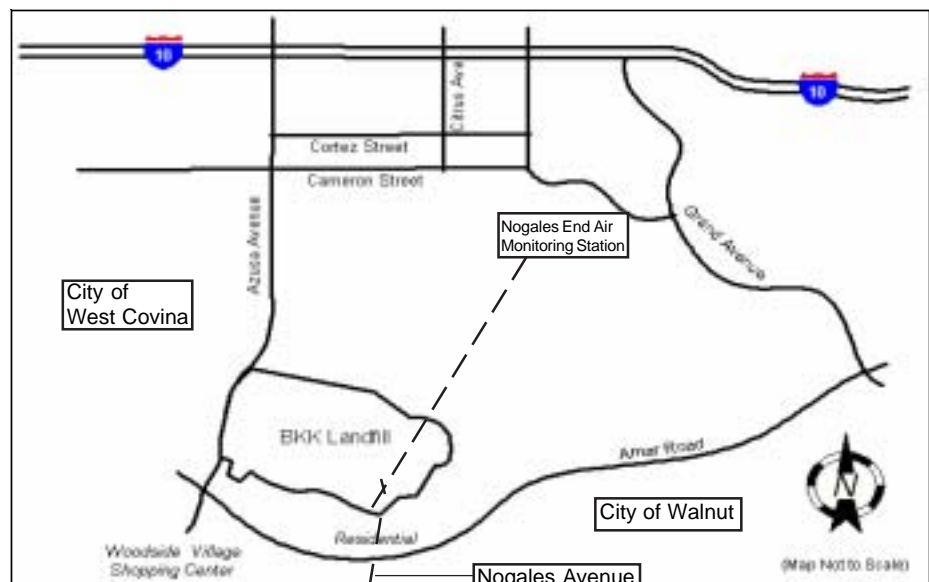
## Update to March 2005 Fact Sheet

### Update

Since the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) mailed this fact sheet to community members on March 29, 2005, we have received additional vinyl chloride sample results from the Nogales End air monitoring station dated March 22, 2005. The most recent data indicate a significant decrease in vinyl chloride concentrations at the Nogales End Station (i.e., from 0.08 ppb on March 17 to 0.01 ppb on March 22). Weekly monitoring will continue. As an extra precaution, DTSC has installed two additional air monitoring stations along the eastern boundary of the BKK facility.

### Background

On October 18, 2004, the BKK Corporation (BKK), owner and operator of the BKK Landfills, notified the DTSC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency that BKK did not have sufficient funds to continue operating and maintaining the closed Class I (hazardous) landfill and leachate treatment plant beyond November 17, 2004. As a result, on November 18, 2004, DTSC began implementing an emergency response action to ensure that essential landfill activities continued. On November 5, 2004, DTSC



issued its first fact sheet about these events. The BKK facility is located at 2210 South Azusa Avenue, West Covina, CA. (Please see map on page one).

On December 2, 2004, DTSC issued an administrative order (the Order) to 51 companies called potentially responsible parties (PRPs). These PRPs include BKK (the current owner), the prior owner of the Class I landfill and numerous companies that disposed of hazardous waste at the Class I landfill. Under the Order the PRPs are required to conduct emergency response activities and perform some important facility repairs. DTSC will continue conducting its emergency response actions at the BKK facility until the PRPs assume their responsibilities under the Order.

Copies of the Order and other documents related to the BKK facility can be found on DTSC's web site at: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html)

### **On-Site Activities**

DTSC hired Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. (ERRG) to carry out emergency response maintenance and repair activities. ERRG has extensive experience designing, building, and running landfill systems. ERRG's activities at the facility to date have included:

- operating the gas collection and migration control systems
- operating the landfill gas combustion system
- maintaining the hazardous waste landfill cap
- conducting air, landfill leachate, and groundwater monitoring
- operating the groundwater and landfill leachate extraction system
- operating the leachate treatment plant
- carrying out a number of needed repairs to equipment at the facility
- providing 24-hour security at the facility

One or more DTSC personnel are at the facility every week Monday through Friday, to oversee this emergency response work. DTSC will review

and approve all of the emergency response work. DTSC is working in close coordination with local, State, and federal agencies to ensure that they are kept informed of all aspects of this emergency response action on an ongoing basis.

### **The Most Recent Proposition 65 Warnings**

Under California's Proposition 65, a business is required to give a clear and reasonable warning to anyone who may be exposed to a listed chemical above a specified risk level. The Proposition 65 warning level of 0.05 parts per billion (ppb) for vinyl chloride is essentially an early warning system designed to let people know that a problem may exist that needs attention. This level indicates that a person who is exposed to 0.05 ppb of vinyl chloride in the air from the business over a lifetime of 70 years may have a one in one-hundred thousand (1/100,000) chance of developing cancer.

BKK, as the owner/operator of the facility, has issued a number of Proposition 65 warnings for vinyl chloride over the years, most recently in December, 2004 and March, 2005. BKK sent the December 21, 2004 warning to three residences on Myra Court in West Covina, California. BKK issued another warning, dated March 21, 2005, to eight West Covina residences. Three of these residences are on Myra Court, three residences are on Marlena Street and two residences are on Nogales Avenue.

BKK's Proposition 65 notifications informed the residents that the average concentration of vinyl chloride measured at the BKK Nogales End Air Monitoring Station in the preceding twelve months exceeded 0.05 ppb. DTSC sampling results from January and February confirmed the presence of vinyl chloride at levels above 0.05 ppb at three locations in the vicinity of Myra Court. Two of the samples with readings in the 0.10 to 0.17 ppb range were collected at the BKK facility fence line. One sample collected in the immediate residential area measured 0.053 ppb, which is just above the Proposition 65 reporting level of 0.05 ppb. Based on the sampling results obtained thus far, the levels of vinyl chloride

measured at monitoring stations located on the BKK facility and in the residential area south of the BKK facility do not pose an immediate health threat to the residents.

### **Ongoing Vinyl Chloride Monitoring**

Immediately following BKK's December 21, 2004 Proposition 65 Update, DTSC directed ERRG to conduct additional air sampling in the Myra Court area. DTSC also directed ERRG to determine the causes of this situation and reduce the levels of vinyl chloride. The first phase of this effort focused on repairing 22 leachate and gas wells and returning them to full operation. Sampling conducted on March 11, 2005, after completion of the initial mitigation measures, found vinyl chloride was not detectable at the three sampling stations in the Myra Court area. Sampling results from March 17, 2005 show vinyl chloride present at the Nogales End Station, which is located on the BKK facility. Vinyl chloride was not detected at any other monitoring stations on or off the BKK facility, including the Amar/Nogales, Marlana, Melissa/Marcella and Miranda stations, which are the stations closest to the homes that received BKK's most recent Proposition 65 warning.

More monitoring will be necessary to determine whether the recent decline in vinyl chloride emissions is a longer term trend. DTSC will continue to collect ambient air samples on a weekly basis and conduct repairs until we are confident that remediation measures are working and that vinyl chloride releases have been brought under control. BKK must continue to issue Proposition 65 warnings until the 12-month rolling average concentration of vinyl chloride falls below 0.05 ppb, which is the Proposition 65 warning level.

For additional information about vinyl chloride, see the following publications:

[www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/vinylchl.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/vinylchl.html)  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs20.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs20.html)  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts20.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts20.html)

### **Public Outreach**

DTSC's public participation program provides the community with an opportunity to actively participate in our decision-making process. Our public participation staff identifies interested individuals and their concerns. We develop mailing lists of interested people, establish convenient public sites to house documents, mail printed information to the community, hold public meetings and briefings, and respond to community inquiries.

To help us gather information about the needs of the community and add individuals to our mailing lists, we ask that you fill out the enclosed survey and return it to us. Results of the survey will assist us in developing our public outreach plan for the BKK facility.

### **Additional Information**

DTSC will keep you updated on the status of this project. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the information in this fact sheet or any questions regarding DTSC's activities at the BKK facility, please contact one of the following DTSC personnel:

Andy Burow  
DTSC Essential Operations Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-6568  
[aburow@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:aburow@dtsc.ca.gov)

Richard Allen  
DTSC Permitting and Corrective Action  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
(818) 551-2924  
[rallen2@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rallen2@dtsc.ca.gov)

Kim Rhodes  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3651  
(866) 284-0721 (Toll-Free)  
[Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov)

For media questions, please contact:  
Jeanne Garcia  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
(818) 551-2176  
[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378. Ask them to contact Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

## Anuncio

Aviso: Si usted prefiere hablar con alguien en español sobre esta información, llame por favor José Salcedo en el departamento del control tóxico de las sustancias en (916) 255-3741.

### Information Repositories

Documents regarding the BKK facility can be reviewed at the following locations:

West Covina Public Library  
1601 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, California 91790

Walnut Public Library  
21155 La Puente Road  
Walnut, California 91789

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, California 91201

Cut out and mail

### ***ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?***

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive information about BKK Landfills, please complete this coupon and return it to: Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please take me off the mailing list.

**Note:** While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.